

# Stieng language

**Stieng** (IPA: [stiəŋ], Vietnamese: Xtiêng, Khmer: ស្តីង) is the language of the Stieng people of southern Vietnam and adjacent areas of Cambodia, and possibly Laos (under the name Tariang). Along with Chrau and Mnong, Stieng is classified as a language of the South Bahnaric grouping of the Mon–Khmer languages within the Austroasiatic language family. In the Austroasiatic scheme, the Bahnaric languages are often cited as being most closely related to the Khmer language.

There are noted dialects of Stieng, some of which may not be mutually intelligible. However, due to the lack of widely available research, this article will primarily describe the dialect known as Bulo Stieng spoken in the provinces of Bình Phước, Lâm Đồng, Tây Ninh in southwestern Vietnam and Kratié (Snuol District) and Mondulkiri provinces in adjacent areas of eastern Cambodia.<sup>[4][5]</sup> Bulo Stieng is spoken in more remote areas of the mountains and jungles alongside its close relative, Mnong. Other dialects, including Bu Dek and Bu Biek, are spoken in the lowlands and exhibit more influence from Vietnamese.

Unlike many other Mon–Khmer languages, Stieng does not distinguish voice quality, nor is it a tonal language like Vietnamese.<sup>[4]</sup> Words may be either monosyllabic or sesquisyllabic.

Stieng	
<b>Native to</b>	Vietnam, Cambodia, possibly also Laos
<b>Ethnicity</b>	Stieng people
<b>Native speakers</b>	90,000 in Vietnam and Cambodia (2008 & 2009 censuses) <sup>[1][2]</sup>
<b>Language family</b>	Austroasiatic <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Bahnaric</li> <li>▪ South Bahnaric</li> <li>▪ <b>Stieng</b></li> </ul>
<b>Writing system</b>	Khmer, Latin
<b>Language codes</b>	
<b>ISO 639-3</b>	Either: sti – Bulo Stieng stt – Budeh Stieng
<b>Glottolog</b>	stie1250 ( <a href="http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/stie1250">http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/stie1250</a> ) <sup>[3]</sup>

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## Phonology

### Consonants

Haupers (1969) analyzes Stieng as having 25 consonant phonemes with three-way contrasts of voiced, unvoiced and pre-glottalized with aspiration described as a consonant cluster involving simple (i.e. not pre-glottalized) stops plus /h/.<sup>[4]</sup> Analyses which include the aspirated series as independent phonemes yield 33 consonants and a five-way contrast.

		Bilabial	Dental	Alveolar	Palatal	Velar	Glottal
<b>Plosive</b>	<b>Voiceless</b>	p		t		k	
	<b>Voiceless aspirated</b>	p <sup>h</sup>		t <sup>h</sup>		k <sup>h</sup>	?
	<b>Voiced</b>	b		d	ʃ	g	
	<b>Voiced aspirated</b>	b <sup>h</sup>		d <sup>h</sup>	ʃ <sup>h</sup>	g <sup>h</sup>	
	<b>Pre-glottalized</b>	?b		?d			
<b>Nasal</b>	<b>Voiced</b>	m		n	ŋ	ŋ	
	<b>Preglottalized</b>	?m		?n			
<b>Fricative</b>	<b>Voiceless</b>			s	(ç)		h
<b>Approximant</b>	<b>Voiced</b>	w	l	r (r)	j		
	<b>Preglottalized</b>			?l	?j		

Consonants appearing in syllable coda are devoiced and unreleased. For the alveolar approximate, the trilled [r] is found in free variation with the flapped [ɾ]. The voiceless palatal fricative [ç] appears only in syllable coda as a complementary allophone of [s].

## Vowels

The Stieng vowel system consists of fifteen monophthongs and two diphthongs. In addition to vowel quality, quantitative length (duration) is also phonemic for vowels other than [ɛ] ([æ]) in closed syllables. The vowel [ɛ] ([æ]) is short before h and long elsewhere. This lack of minimal pairs for [ɛ] ([æ]) and [ɛ :] ([æ :]) suggests that [ɛ], [æ], [ɛ :] and [æ :] are all allophones.<sup>[4]</sup>

	Front		Central		Back	
	short	long	short	long	short	long
<b>Close</b>	i	iø	ɨ	ɨ:	u	u: uø
<b>Close-mid</b>	e (ɪ)	e: (ɪ:)				o:
<b>Open-mid</b>	ɛ (æ)	ɛ: (æ:)		ʌ:		ɔ:
<b>Open</b>			a	a:	ɑ	

Symbols in parenthesis represent allophonic variations.

## References

1. General Statistics Office of Vietnam 2009 Census ([http://www.gso.gov.vn/default\\_en.aspx?tabid=514&idmid=5](http://www.gso.gov.vn/default_en.aspx?tabid=514&idmid=5))
2. Cambodian Government National Institute of Statistics 2008 Census (<http://celade.cepal.org/khmnis/census/khm2008/>) Archived (<https://web.archive.org/web/20120229085014/http://celade.cepal.org/khmnis/census/khm2008/>) 2012-02-29 at the Wayback Machine
3. Hammarström, Harald; Forkel, Robert; Haspelmath, Martin, eds. (2017). "Stieng" (<http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/stie1250>). *Glottolog 3.0*. Jena, Germany: Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History.
4. Haupers, Ralph. "Stieng Phonemes." *The Mon-Khmer Studies Journal*. 3. (1969): 131-137.

5. [Ethnologue \(http://www.ethnologue.com/show\\_language.asp?code=sti\)](http://www.ethnologue.com/show_language.asp?code=sti)

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